



# DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY

AMERICA'S COMBAT LOGISTICS SUPPORT AGENCY



## PRODUCT EVALUATION & TESTING BRANCH SUPPLIER SUPPORT DIVISION II

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# Product Evaluation & Testing Branch

## Contract Cited Testing Responsibilities & Roles

The Product Assurance Branch serves as the Program Management team for the various test facilities that determine & perform the Contractually mandated testing. Our office serves as the Subject Matter Experts for testing, between the Services and the DLA Contracting & Technical staff for the Results of Testing. In addition, our staff identifies & coordinates the corrective actions required resolving deficiencies that may impede the testing process.

Issues we often are engaged to resolve

- Inadequate or Missing Documentation

- Insufficient Sample Quantity

- Repeated First Article Submission for the same Materiels/Vendor

- Inadequate or Missing Contract Language

- First Article Resubmission without Contracted Authority (Mods)

- Inadequate or Missing Contractual Testing Requirements



# First Article Test (FAT)

The purpose of First Article testing and approval is to ensure that the contractor can furnish a product that conforms to all contract requirements for acceptance and therefore minimize risks for both the contractor and the Government.

First Article testing is not a substitute for verifying contract quality performance.

Contractor First Article – Clauses 52.209-3 (Basic Clause) & 52.209-9017 (Additional FA requirements) The vendor is responsible for testing and the DCMA QAR Witnesses or Verifies the testing as specified by the Contract and Government Quality Assurance Letters of Instruction from the Buying Activity.

Government First Article – Clause 52.209-4 (Basic Clause) & 52.209-9018(Additional FA requirements) The vendor is responsible for sending Samples and all manufacturing data as indicated by the CDRLs or Additional requirements clause to the Facility identified in the basic or elsewhere in the contract.



# First Article Test (FAT)

What it does -

Allows the vendor the opportunity to demonstrate that they have the means to provide the required product to the government.

It is a Qualification tool-

When invoked by the contract, it is a tool which evaluates the vendors understanding & ability to comply with ALL ASPECTS of the contract requirements, not just the material itself and may include:

- Packaging

- Marking

- Documentation of Processes

- Traceability of the documentation

- Scheduling

And ANY other additional cited special Requirements are all evaluated for compliance.

Waivers of FAT may requested by the vendor that meet predetermined criteria.

(see Clause 52.209-9019 Requests for Waiver of First Article Testing

Requirements)



# FAT Waiver Review Process

## **Product Specialist ensures the following when conducting a waiver review:**

Cognizant ESA has not specifically restricted DLA authority to waive FAT requirement.

The source of supply has produced the specific or similar item within the past 5 years. \*(1 Year for Army CSI & 3 Years for Navy CSI)

The source quoting and source of supply has no unfavorable quality history for the specific item since the previous FAT approval or ESA approved FAT waiver.

The source quoting has not identified any changes in item configuration, process, ownership, mfg. location, or subcontractors.

The item configuration has not changed since the source of supply has either performed a FAT or received an ESA approved waiver.

PS submits all CIM/CSI waiver requests to the ESA for approval.

If PS feels waiver is warranted for CIM/CSI, despite not meeting all of the previous criteria, then a 339 is required for waiver approval.



# Production Lot Test (PLT)

Production Lot Test (PLT): A test of sample(s), randomly selected from a completed production lot to verify that it was produced in accordance with all requirements cited in the contract or Supplemental Quality Assurance Provision. May be Government or contractor.

PLT is the Quality verification tool. It provides the testing to demonstrate that the vendors is maintaining their own documented manufacturing & quality processes & controls, as well as “spot checking” the product in an actual manufacturing cycle.



# Production Lot Test (PLT)

The DCMA QAR selects the sample from the lot presented to them for Certification of Quality Acceptance (CQA) inspection for a detailed Production Lot Test.

Contractor Production Lot Test – Clauses 52.246-9086 –  
Samples selected by the DCMA QAR.

The vendor is responsible for testing and the DCMA QAR Witnesses or Verifies the testing as specified by the Contract and Government Quality Assurance Letters of Instruction from the Buying Activity.

Government Production Lot Test – Clauses 52.246-9085 –  
Samples selected by the DCMA QAR.

The vendor is responsible for sending Samples Selected by the DCMA QAR and all manufacturing data as indicated by the CDRLs or Additional requirements clause to the Facility identified in the basic or elsewhere in the contract.





# Product Verification Testing (PVT)

- **PVT Clause will now be applied to all Government Source Inspected Contracts.**

## **52.246-9004 Product Verification Testing.**

As prescribed in 46.392, insert the following clause:

### PRODUCT VERIFICATION TESTING (NOV 2011)

(a) The requirements of Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) clause 52.246-2, "Inspection of Supplies-Fixed Price," American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/American Society for Quality (ASQ) Z1.4-1993, "Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes," apply. These documents form the basis for the Government's right to perform product verification testing (PVT) of this product. FAR 52.246-2 is hereby incorporated by reference into the contract if not otherwise called out in the purchase document. The current version of ANSI/ASQC Z1.4 can be found at <http://asq.org>. The private sector and non-Department of Defense (DOD) agencies may purchase copies of ANSI/ASQC Z1.4 from the American Society for Quality at <http://asq.org/index.aspx>.





# Product Verification Testing(PVT)

## Reasons for Invoking PVT

Product has past quality problems (item)

Contractor has past quality problems

Performance specs (supplier base)

Industrial base past performance has been unacceptable or has experienced major problems (processes)

Complex or sensitive production/manufacturing set ups are required (processes)

Emerging technology mandating significant changes in production manufacturing (processes)

First-time buys

Critical Safety Items (CSIs)

No other Quality verification testing (FAT/PLT) is specified in the award

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